

BANNA, Sabri al-

PALESTINE

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Iraqi strife flares again in Europe

Attack in Paris latest in a series

By John K. Cooley
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Athens

The armed attack on the Iraqi Embassy in Paris is the latest in a series of acts of terror and counterterror in Europe which reflect strife between the Iraqi regime and its Palestinian, Arab, and perhaps Kurdish opponents.

Two men shot their way into the Paris embassy July 31, taking hostages inside the building. Both were captured later by French policemen, but one other gunman and a policeman were killed when embassy security guards opened fire.

Paris Radio, meanwhile, reported the gunmen demanded release of an Iraqi woman, arrested for questioning in London after a grenade attempt on the life of the Iraqi ambassador to Britain on July 28.

One of the attackers is said to have identified himself as the brother of Said Hammami, the moderate Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representative murdered in London last January.

Yasser blames faction

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and his mainstream PLO guerrilla group, Al-Fatah, ascribed Mr. Hammami's killing, that of Egyptian editor Youssef al-Sebai in Cyprus Feb. 18, and a number of other recent terrorist acts against Arabs to a dissident faction of Al-Fatah based in Baghdad, Iraq, and protected by the Iraqi intelligence service. They asked Iraq in vain to surrender the group's leader, Sabry al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, to the PLO.

Growing frequency of inter-Arab violence in London, involving Iraqis and others led the British Foreign Office July 26 to expel 11 em-



(Sabry al-Banna) terrorist leader

ployees of the Iraqi Embassy and other Iraqi offices, including that of Iraqi Airways, in London.

Iraq retaliated by expelling 10 members of the British Embassy staff in Baghdad. British Foreign Office statements that the Iraqis in London had been engaged in intelligence activities were "false and baseless," the Iraqi News Agency claimed.

Other incidents

Some of the other recent violent acts that have been traceable to Iraqi politics included the attempted murder in London last February of Mr. and Mrs. Ayad Allawi, active among groups in Britain opposing Iraq's ruling Baath (Arab Socialist) Party leaders, and assassination in central London July 9 of Abdel Razzaq al-Nayef, a former Baathist politician and prime minister who had been living in London exile.

Rockets were fired at the Iraqi Mission in Beirut, Lebanon, July 17, and on July 24 a bomb exploded outside the Iraqi Embassy in Brussels.

Syrian and Iraqi dissident sources reported a large-scale military purge within the Iraqi armed forces, claiming that 37 police officers, including eight major generals of the police, had been dismissed.